

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Bob Moore
Matthew Byrne
Bill Fouhey
Louie George
Robert Hemeon
Tom Perry
Michael McCarthy
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: Daniel DeLorenzo, Chair

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster

Media Present: None

Other:

Matt Byrne called meeting called to order at 6pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Michael McCarthy to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2021; All in favor: 7:0.

New Business:

Nomination of Vice Chair: Bill Fouhey nominated Matt Byrne as Vice Chair having seniority on the committee. There was some discussion as to whether Matt Byrne or Bob Moore is senior. Open for discussion. There was some question as to Bob Moore's availability in winter months.

Motion: Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Louie George to choose Matt Byrne as Vice Chair; All in favor: 7:0.

The committee discusses when a Chair should be nominated. It was agreed a new chair should be nominated annually following Town Meeting at the June meeting.

Bob Hemeon inquired if Town Meeting needs to know who the Chair is. Christopher Sanborn said he didn't think that was something Town Meeting needed to be made aware of, but that it would be included in the annual report provided to Town Meeting members.

Christopher Sanborn updated the committee on a \$10k grant received from the MA Division of Marine Fisheries to refurbish the 2009 pumpout boat. The funds would cover 75% of these costs. Christopher Sanborn is confident the work will the boat back to a "like new" condition and will extend its service life well into the future. He mentioned the outboard motor was replaced three years ago with grant funding.

Louie George asked if \$22k (\$12k operating grant & \$10k boat refurb grant) will cover all the costs needed for the boat work and operating expenses for the pumpout boat. Christopher Sanborn said it would.

Louie George asked about the lifespan of an outboard motor. Christopher Sanborn explained, given the nature of its use solely the in river, it would not be as long as a typical recreational boat outboard but generally, 8 years.

Old Business:

The committee spoke about police reform measures that are affecting harbormasters in MA. Christopher Sanborn showed a [video](#) from WCVB channel 5 investigates on the topic.

Christopher Sanborn explained jurisdiction and powers of arrest of harbormasters. He stated that because he and his staff are sworn as Special Police Officers in addition to their Harbormaster authority, he and his staff would be required to complete Bridge Academy training, per the reform law. Three of his Assistant Harbormasters are due to complete this training by July 2022. Two of the three Assistants have opted not to pursue the additional training. Christopher Sanborn explained the challenges these part-time Assistant's face having to commit to taking time away from their full-time jobs to attend three weeks of in-person training.

Christopher Sanborn said they are planning to send Assistant Harbormaster's through the Bridge Academy by absorbing those costs into the Waterways Improvement Revolving Fund.

Louie George asked for clarification as to whether Harbormasters in MA who are not sworn officers are required to attend this training. Christopher Sanborn said that is not

clear at this time. Louie George asked if there was any provision for paying Assistants for lost pay from their full-time jobs. Christopher Sanborn said not at this time.

Christopher Sanborn also noted that these Assistant Harbormaster's are only making \$18/hr. which is not a lot for the amount of training required of them now, not to mention the additional training that will be required of them with this reform law. He additionally mentioned that in the upcoming budget they are requesting a pay increase to better reflect that.

Bob Hemeon asked about A-H certifications. Does this mean Josh Barrett would be the only one who can work after June 2022? Christopher Sanborn said police certification expires in the year your last name falls, so A-H in 2022, I-R in 2023 and S-Z in 2024. There was additional discussion on medical exam requirements and certification.

Bob Hemeon asked if towns would have a choice to assign police officers to marine patrol. Christopher Sanborn said he didn't think it would be feasible, certainly not in Danvers, based on discussions with the police chief.

Louie George asked about waivers for extension of time. Christopher Sanborn said he is not aware of any exemptions.

Bob Moore asked about shoreline cleanup. He received an inquiry from a neighbor on Jacob's Landing. Christopher Sanborn explained that in years past the town spent several days annually cleaning up "wright's beach". A neighbor later complained that we were doing work on private land owned by the power company. Since then, we've stopped the clean-up.

Michael McCarthy mentioned promoting a river clean-up day.

Motion: Motion made by Louie George, seconded by Bill Fouhey, to adjourn the meeting of January 20, 2022. All in favor: 7:0

cc: Steve Bartha, Town Manager
David Mountain, Recreation Director